



# DESIRE

## LESSON ONE: AUTHENTICATED

---

TAMI GLASER

Have you noticed how often we are asked to prove our identity to a stranger? When we accept a new job, we are asked to provide two forms of identification to authenticate who we claim to be. When we visit the doctor or when we vote, we are asked to show our picture identification to prove we are who we say we are. During the holidays we may even be asked to show our driver's license when we pay for gifts using our credit card so the cashier can check the photo and signature on our license against our in-person self as on the spot proof we are who we claim we are.

So, why is it important to prove who we are? For authentication.

We may know someone or we may have been victims ourselves of identity theft. I recall a time when my identification was stolen online. I was teaching 3rd Graders a math lesson when I noticed there was a voicemail message left on my cell phone from a number I didn't recognize. After escorting my students to their Specials class, I listened to the message only to learn my identity had been stolen and the thief had spent almost \$700.00 at a Nike store. When I called the number back, I had to prove who I was by answering a series of security questions. Only after the representative was satisfied that I was truly myself were we able to move on to the issue at hand. Eventually, the charge was voided and the credit card cancelled.

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary the word authenticate is defined as: to prove or serve to prove to be real, true, or genuine. Some synonyms used to describe something as being genuine include: attest, avouch, certify, testify (to), vouch (for), and witness.

Are you aware that Jesus Christ has been proven to be the Messiah? The Old Testament proclaimed the coming of His birth and death hundreds of years before the event happened and the New Testament authenticates Christ as the Risen LORD. Isaiah 7:14 says, *"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."* This Scripture describes in detail the manner in which Jesus will be born, and also tells us one of the names He will be given: Immanuel, which means God with us. This was pointing to both his human birth and his divine nature. This faithful prophecy was written over 700 years before Christ was born. Recently, Roman coins have been discovered bearing the image of the Bethlehem star. The Romans were so impressed by this incredible natural phenomenon that they recorded it on one of their coins, and subsequently, for all human history.

Micah 5:2 records, *But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. Historically we can prove Jesus was born in Bethlehem and this Scripture tells us in advance the place Jesus would be born. This prophecy was written by Micah approximately 800 years before Christ was born.*

Likewise, the Old Testament also confirms Christ's crucifixion hundreds of years before the event. Psalm 22:16-18 states, *Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.* This fateful prophecy comes to fruition when Matthew recorded the event in Matthew 27:35 stating, *When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots.*

Have you once and for all accepted Christ as your LORD and Savior? Have you ever struggled with believing that Jesus is truly the Son of God? Have you come from a background of attending a church that did not center its worship on scripture? Have you come from a family who did not attend church? Are you wrestling with who Christ is and where He belongs in your life? Are you feeling brave and ready to dip your toe in the waters of baptism because you are ready for a life change?

John 14:10 ~ *Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.*

**YOUR TURN:** Read the following verses and write down how Scripture confirms Jesus' true identity as the Son of God and is the only way to the Father.

John 14:6-7

Luke 1:26-38

John 1:14

Romans 6:23

John 1:18

Acts 4:12

1 John 5:20

John 10:9

1 Timothy 2:5-7